



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Phil Steele, or Phil.Steele@noaa.gov
727/570-5305, FAX 727/570-5583
<http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 9, 2002
NR02-002

RED SNAPPER COMMERCIAL FISHERY IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS WILL OPEN AT NOON, FEBRUARY 1, 2002

NOAA Fisheries announces that the commercial fishery for red snapper in Gulf of Mexico Federal waters will open at noon, local time, on February 1, 2002, and close at noon, local time, on February 10, 2002. The 2002 Gulf of Mexico red snapper quota is 4.65-million pounds. The commercial fishing season is divided into spring and fall seasons. The spring season begins at noon, local time, on February 1, with 3.10 million pounds available, and the fall season begins at noon, local time, on October 1, with the remainder of the annual quota available. During the spring and fall seasons fishing will be allowed during the first 10 days of each month until the

quota is caught. The operator of a vessel with a valid reef fish permit and a Class 1 or Class 2 red snapper license having red snapper aboard must have landed and sold such red snapper before noon, local time, on February 10, 2002. The minimum size limit for the commercial fishery is 15 inches total length.

This and other news releases are available on the SERO homepage at <http://caldera.sero.nmfs.gov>. The NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.